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PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10970451-1

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Patent Application Transmittal Letter

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 CFR 1.53(b) is a(n): ☒ Utility ☐ Design☒ original patent application,☐ continuing application,☐ continuation-in-part☐ continuation or ☐ divisional

of S/N _____ filed _____.

INVENTOR(S): Lawrence N Taugher

TITLE: Write Protect For Rewritable Compact Disks And Digital Video Disks

Enclosed are:

☒ The Declaration and Power of Attorney. ☐ signed ☒ unsigned or partially signed☒ 4 sheets of ☐ formal drawings ☒ informal drawings (one set)☐ Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 ☐ Associate Power of Attorney☐ Priority document(s) ☐ (Other) _____ (fee \$ _____)

CLAIMS AS FILED BY OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY				
(1) FOR	(2) NUMBER FILED	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) RATE	(5) TOTALS
TOTAL CLAIMS	11 — 20	0	X \$ 22	\$ 0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	3 — 3	0	X \$ 80	\$ 0
ANY MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS	0		\$ 260	\$ 0
BASIC FEE: Design (\$320.00); Utility (\$770.00)				\$ 770
TOTAL FILING FEE				\$ 770
OTHER FEES				\$ 0
TOTAL CHARGES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT				\$ 770

Charge \$ 770 to Deposit Account 08-2025. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Date of Deposit March 25, 1997

I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By

Typed Name: Laura A. Schutze

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence N Taugher

By

Augustus W Winfield

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

Reg. No. 34,046

Date: March 25, 1997



WRITE PROTECT FOR REWRITABLE COMPACT DISKS AND DIGITAL VIDEO DISKS

FIELD OF INVENTION

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This invention relates generally to digital mass memory media and more specifically to rewritable compact discs.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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In general, there are three types of digital optical discs: read-only, recordable (also called Write-Once or Write-Once-Read-Many (WORM)) and rewritable (also called erasable). Examples of commercially available read-only optical disc technologies are the Compact Disc (CD) for digital audio and the Compact Disc - Read Only Memory (CD-ROM) for computer data. Compact Disc - Recordable (CD-R) drives and media are also commercially available. An example of a rewritable (erasable) optical disc technology is the Magneto-Optic (MO) disc, widely used for computer data storage. Rewritable compact disks (CD-RW), and rewritable Digital Video Disks (DVD, also called Digital Versatile Disks) will be commercially available soon.

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Rewritable mass memory media is typically contained in a rigid cartridge during operation and the cartridge typically includes a write-protect feature to protect information on a storage medium from being destroyed. For example, most data tape cartridges have a moveable plastic tab that can be moved to one of two positions. Similarly, flexible diskettes in hard plastic cases have a sliding or breakaway plastic tab. CD's and DVD's, however, are not in a cartridge during operation. Write protection for CD's and DVD's must be implemented directly on the medium. Solutions have been proposed that are software based. That is, if a particular bit or data field has a particular value, software (operating system or drive controller) is not supposed to overwrite data on the medium. However,

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software solutions require support by all operating systems or drives. If a disk is created by one operating system or drive controller that supports a software write protect feature, and then is taken to a system that does not support the feature, data may be inadvertently destroyed. In addition, a software virus could bypass software write protection to delete data on the disk. There is a need for a physical write protect feature, directly on the disk medium, that protects against writing for any software.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Industry standard CD-RW drives use a phase change material having a transparency that can be reversibly changed by heating, and then cooling at a controlled rate. A laser is used to heat, and then cool small areas at a controlled rate. Laser power must be calibrated for each disk medium. Before writing or erasing, a standard CD-RW drive must successfully calibrate laser power by writing into a Power Calibration Area on the medium. If the drive cannot read its calibration patterns in the Power Calibration Area, it will not erase or write in the data area of the disk. In some example embodiments of the invention, the Power Calibration Area is temporarily obscured, preventing a successful calibration. For example, the Power Calibration Area may be covered by removable opaque plastic rings or adhesive labels. In other example embodiments, the Power Calibration Area is permanently obscured or covered for permanent write protection. For example, the surface of the disk in the Power Calibration Area may be scratched or abraded. Finally, the phase change material in the Power Calibration Area may be intentionally damaged, rendering the disk permanently write protected.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a disk drive with laser and disk medium.

5 Figure 2 is a cross-section of the disk medium of figure 1.

Figure 3 is a plan view of the surface of a rewritable disk medium.

10 Figure 4 is a cross-section side view of a disk with a write protect ring in accordance with one example embodiment of the invention.

Figure 5 is a cross-section side view of a disk with an adhesive label in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the invention.

15 Figure 6 is a cross section side view of a disk with a mechanical device for abrading or scratching the surface of the disk.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

20 Figure 1 illustrates a disk drive 100 with a rewritable disk 102. A laser system 104 writes and reads through an optics system 106. An electronic controller 108 controls power for the laser 104 and extracts data from a return signal.

25 Figure 2 illustrates some of the layers of a rewritable disk medium. CD-RW media and proposed rewritable DVD media typically use a phase change material 200 for defining bits of information. Small areas of the material are heated by a laser (figure 1, 104) to one of two temperatures, and then allowed to cool at one of two controlled rates by controlling the rate of decrease in laser power. The phase

change material 200 becomes crystalline (transparent) when heated to just below its melting point and then cooled at a relatively slow rate, and amorphous (opaque) when heated above its melting point and then cooled quickly. For transparent areas, laser light passes through the phase change material 200 and is reflected off a reflective layer 202. For amorphous areas, the laser light is scattered or absorbed and little light is reflected. A transparent layer 204 serves as a protection layer and additional support for stiffness.

Figure 3 illustrates additional detail for disk 102. The disk 102 has a central hole 300. Standard rewritable disks are 118 mm in diameter, with a 15 mm diameter hole. A circle 302 having a diameter of 50 mm defines the beginning of the data area. Data is written along a single spiral track, starting at the inner edge 302 of the data area and spiraling outward toward the edge of the disk. In read-only or write-once media, the ring shaped area between the hole 300 and circle 302 is not used. In rewritable media, a Power Calibration Area 304 (having an inner diameter of 44.7 mm and an outer diameter of 45.5 mm) just inside the circle 302 is used for laser power calibration. The drive laser system writes, and then reads, various test patterns in the Laser Calibration Area to calibrate the peak power and rate of decrease of power. Laser writing power must be calibrated for each disk. Physical write protection may be provided by preventing laser power calibration. In addition, there is a Program Memory Area (not separately illustrated) (having an inner diameter of 45.5 mm and an outer diameter of 45.7 mm) just inside the circle 302. The Program Memory Area is used for a table of contents used only during writing.

Figure 4 illustrates a first example embodiment of the invention. In figure 4, for a disk 400, the central hole has a larger than standard diameter for part of the thickness of the disk, forming a depressed area 402 around the standard diameter hole 300. A ring 404 may be inserted into the depressed area 402, the ring having a thin opaque top portion 406. When ring 404 is inserted, the Power Calibration

Area 304 is covered by the opaque top portion 406, thereby preventing laser power calibration, thereby providing write protection. Top portion 406 preferably covers all the Power Calibration Area 304, and may cover part of the Program Memory Area, but must not cover any of the data area. That is, for the disk format dimensions discussed above, top portion 406 has a minimum outer diameter greater than 44.7 mm and a maximum outer diameter of 50 mm. Note that the laser (figure 1, 104) operates at a particular wavelength, so that "opaque" means that the top portion 406 is sufficiently non-transparent at the wavelength of the laser to prevent a successful laser power calibration. The ring 404 may be made removable. The ring 404 may include flexible material, springs, detents or other retaining details (not illustrated) to prevent the ring 404 from falling out when inverted or mechanically shocked.

Figure 5 illustrates a second example embodiment of the invention. In figure 5, a disk 102 has a standard central hole 300, and an opaque ring-shaped adhesive label 500 is attached to the disk 102. The ring-shaped label 500 has a maximum inner diameter of 44.7 mm, a minimum outer diameter greater than 44.7 mm and a maximum outer diameter less than 50 mm. When label 500 is attached, laser power calibration is prevented. The label 500 may be made removable, or alternatively the label adhesive may be made essentially non-removable for permanent write protection. As an alternative to an adhesive label 500, the Power Calibration Area 304 may be covered by an opaque dye, ink, or paint. Again, "opaque" means that the material is sufficiently non-transparent at the wavelength of the laser to prevent power calibration of the laser.

The Power Calibration Area 304 (including the Program Memory Area) band is relatively narrow (5.3 mm), and any write protection feature must not cover any of the data area (it is OK to cover part or all of the Program Memory Area). Therefore, there is a need for relatively precise alignment of the write protect feature. That is, for the particular specified dimensions, the write protect feature

must have a minimum outer diameter greater than 44.7 mm and a maximum outer diameter less than 50mm. As a result, the ring 404 of figure 4 is preferable to the adhesive label 500 of figure 5, since the ring 404 is self aligning. A label (or dye or ink or paint) may require a fixture to ensure proper alignment.

5 Figure 6 illustrates still another alternative embodiment. Permanent write protection may be accomplished if the Power Calibration Area 304 (either the phase change material or the transparent cover layer) is partially damaged or destroyed. With proper alignment, mechanical abrasion may be used to roughen the surface of the disk at the Power Calibration Area 304. Figure 6 illustrates a self-aligning
10 holder 600 in the hole 300, with a rotating shaft 602, an attached arm 604, and a mechanical blade 606 that scratches or abrades the surface of the disk sufficiently to provide permanent write protection.

 Alternatively, the laser in the drive may be used to damage the Power Calibration Area 304 or a coating on the Power Calibration Area. In general, a
15 drive provides at least two angular velocities for the disk, with a relatively high laser power at a high angular velocity and a relatively low laser power at a low angular velocity. By selecting the highest laser power, at the lowest angular velocity, with multiple passes, the laser may be used to damage the Power Calibration Area. Alternatively, the laser may be used to write into the Power
20 Calibration Area when the disk is stationary.

 Alternatively, the laser may be used to modify a label or coating. For example, a transparent adhesive label may be attached to the original medium by the manufacturer of the medium. The label material may then be darkened by sufficient
25 laser exposure, by using high power with multiple passes or while the disk is stationary. Then, if desired, the darkened adhesive label could be removed. Multiple transparent labels could be attached in a stack, with the top label darkened, and then removed, with additional removable labels available for additional write protects.

The foregoing description of the present invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed, and other modifications and variations may be possible in light of the above teachings. The embodiment was chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the invention and its practical application to thereby enable others skilled in the art to best utilize the invention in various embodiments and various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated. It is intended that the appended claims be construed to include other alternative embodiments of the invention except insofar as limited by the prior art.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for write protection of a disk, the disk having a power calibration area and a data area, the apparatus comprising:
a ring attached to the disk, the ring having a portion that covers the power calibration area but not the data area. ✓
2. The apparatus of claim 1, the disk having a central hole and an indented area formed around the hole, the ring adapted for insertion into the indented area.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, the ring comprising an adhesive label. ✓
4. The apparatus of claim 1, the adhesive label being transparent initially, and then darkened by exposure to a laser.
5. An apparatus for write protection of a disk, the disk having a central hole and a power calibration area, the apparatus comprising:
a holder adapted to fit into the central hole of the disk; and
an abrasive tool, rotating around the holder, adapted to abrade the power calibration area when rotated. ✓
6. A method of write protection for a disk, the disk having a power calibration area for a laser, the method comprising:
shielding the power calibration area of the disk from light sufficiently to prevent a disk drive from using the power calibration area to calibrate a laser. ✓

7. The method of claim 6, the disk adapted to receive light from a laser having a particular wavelength, the step of shielding further comprising:

covering the calibration area with a material that is non-transparent at the particular wavelength.

8. The method of claim 7, the material comprising an adhesive label.

9. The method of claim 7, the material comprising an ink.

10. The method of claim 7, the material comprising a dye.

11. The method of claim 7, the material comprising a paint.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for write protection of rewritable compact disks and digital video disks. A Power Calibration Area is covered to prevent the drive laser from completing a calibration procedure. In one embodiment, the disk has an indented area formed around the central hole in the disk. A ring shaped plug is inserted into the indented area, with an extended surface that covers the calibration area. In an alternative embodiment, an adhesive label, ink, dye or paint is used. In still another alternative embodiment, the calibration area is mechanically abraded to provide permanent write protection. Finally, the laser in the drive may be used to darken, damage or destroy the calibration area or a transparent label over the calibration area, for permanent write protection.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10970451-1

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

I, a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence/post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Write Protect For Rewritable Compact Disks And Digital Video Disks

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

(☒) was filed on March 25, 1997 as US Application Serial No. or PCT International Application Number 08/823,823 and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understood the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

Foreign Application(s) and/or Claim of Foreign Priority

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor(s) certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor(s) certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE FILED	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119
			YES: _____ NO: _____
			YES: _____ NO: _____

Provisional Application

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE

U. S. Priority Claim

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS (patented/pending/abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY:

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) listed below to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Date

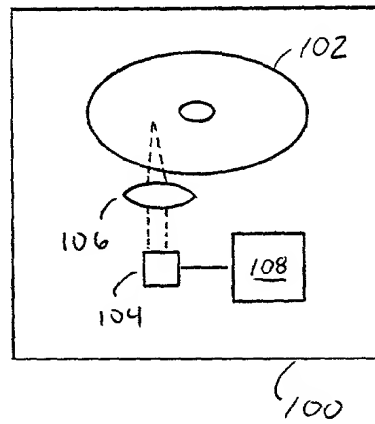


FIG 1

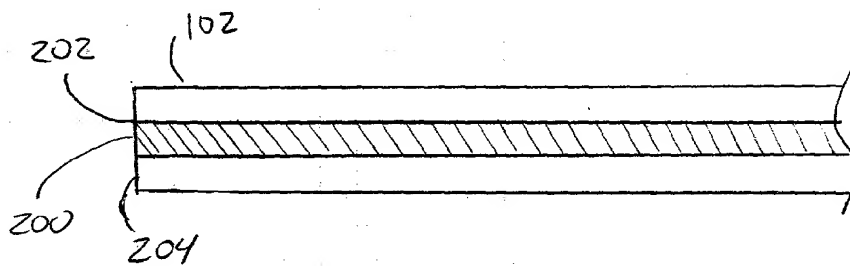


FIG 2

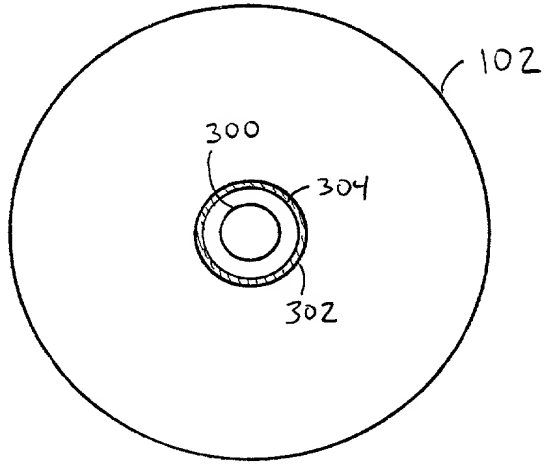


FIG 3



42-182 100 SHEETS
Made in U.S.A.

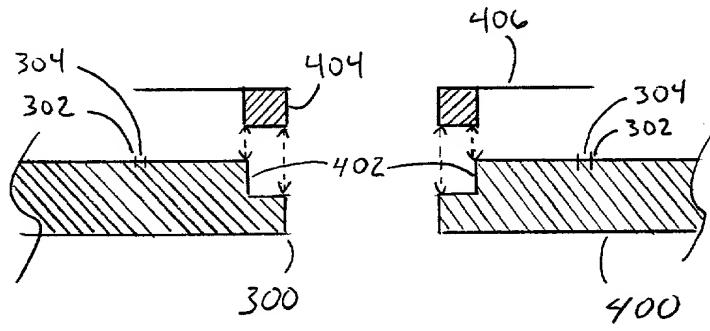


FIG 4

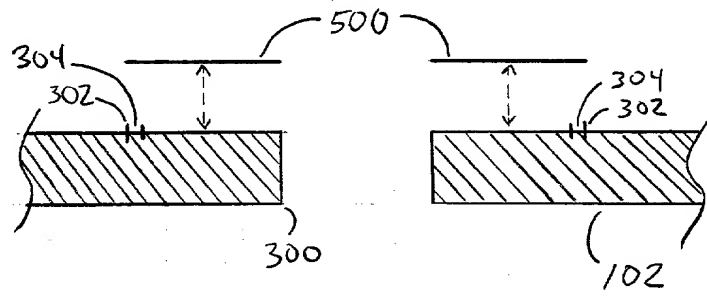


FIG 5



42-182 100 SHEETS
Made in U.S.A.

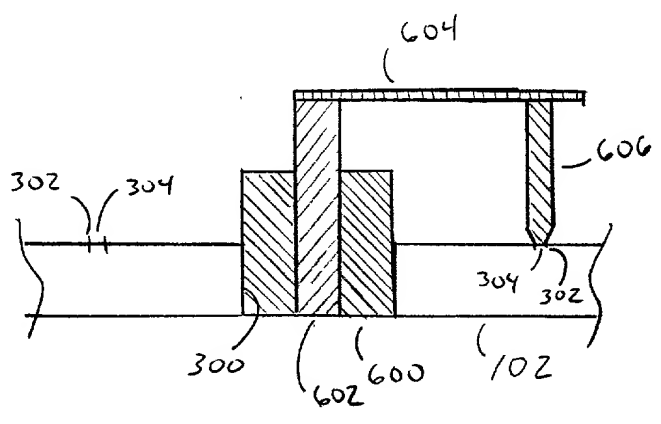


FIG 6